Centrally sponsored programmes cover schemes of national importance such as foodgrains production, development of dryland agriculture, Oilseeds and pulses, Horticulture, Integrated Pest Management, integrated resource development in the catchments of selected rivers etc. In the ongoing Eighth Plan also emphasis has been laid on balanced Regional Development in Agriculture.

Stagnation in Prawn Farming in Orissa

7430. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are award of the stagnation in prawn farming in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to remove the bottlenecks in prawn farming; and

(d) the detailed steps taken to increased prawn farming in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) There is no stagnation in prawn farming in Orissa.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

(d) The major steps taken by the Government include:

(i) setting up of shrimp seed hatcheries at Gopalpur and Chandrabhaga with a designed capacity for producing about 85 million shrimp seed per annum;

(ii) estabilshment of Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies in seven coastal districts for providing a package of technical, financial and extension support to shrimp farmers;

(iii) encouraging setting up of semi-intensive shrimp farms and shrimp hatcheries, etc. in the public/private sector;

(iv) programme for development of semi-intensive shrimp farming in a total water spread area of about 900 ha under a World Bank assisted Shrimp and Fish Culture Project;

(v) encouraging establishment of brood stock/spawner banks;

(vi) setting up of demonstration-cum-training centres for human resource development.

Development of Rainfed Areas

7431. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether priority has been accorded by Government for the development of extensive rainfed areas;

(b) if so, the percentage of such rainfed areas in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the specific schemes proposed for the development of those rainfed areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Statement-I is enclosed *(See* below).

(c) Statement-II is enclosed.